

Appl. No. 10/643,394
AMENDMENT FILED CONCOMITANT WITH RCE

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the arguments provided in the last AMENDMENT is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims hereinabove. The reasoning in the Examiner's Advisory Action as to why the earlier arguments were insufficient include, among others, that the claims are not limited to a crosslinked binder. The amendments made hereinabove were in an endeavor to require that the binder only contain a polymer compound crosslinked through side chains of the polymer. This was done by deleting the term "binder" and simply leaving the polymer compound recited.

Although the earlier arguments refer to the crosslinked hydrophilic binder, wherever such a reference is made, the arguments refer to the polymer compound which comprised the binder in the earlier version of the claims.

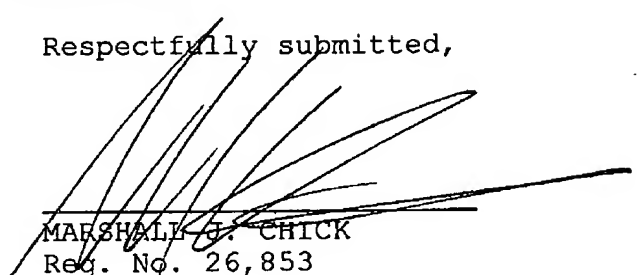
In view of the amendments, it is submitted that the Examiner's objections to the earlier arguments overcoming the art, are avoided. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

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Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the
application are respectfully requested.

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